

REMARKS

Claims 1 and 13 are cancelled. Claims 3-5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 15-17, and 19-22 are amended. Hence, Claims 3, 4, 6-8, 10, 11, and 15-22 are pending.

The Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 5, 9, 12, and 17 contain allowable subject matter and for performing a thorough search.

I. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1, 10, and 13 are rejected under 35 USC §102 as anticipated by Vacante et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,651,191) in view of Widegren et al (U.S. Patent Number 6,651,191).

Claims 3, 4, 6- 8, 15, 16, and 18-20 are rejected under 35 UCS §103 as unpatentable over Vacante et al. in view of Putzolu et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,611,864).

Claim 11 is rejected under 35 UCS §103 as unpatentable over Putzolu et al. in view of Vacante et al. and Widegren et al.

Claims 21, and 22 are rejected under 35 USC §102 as anticipated by Vacante et al. (U.S. Patent Number 6,651,191) in view of Widegren et al (U.S. Patent Number 6,651,191) and Mandal et al. (6170,000).

II. REJECTION BASED ON 35 USC §103

The rejections of Claims 1 and 13 are obviated by the cancellation of Claims 1 and 13.

The Office Action indicated that Claims 5 and 17 would be allowable if placed into independent form. Accordingly, Claims 5 and 17 have been placed into independent form incorporating the subject matter of Claims 1 and 13, from which they depended, and therefore allowable. Dependent Claims 3, 4, 6-8, 15, 16, and 18-20 all directly or indirectly dependent upon claims 1 and 13. However, those claims directly dependent upon claims 1 and 13 (i.e., Claims 3, 4, 7, 8, 15, 16, 19, and 20) are amended to depend from one of claims 5 and 17, respectively. Accordingly, all dependent claims now depend (i.e., Claims 3, 4, 6-8, 15, 16, and 18-20) either directly or indirectly from one of allowable claims 5 and 17, and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Similarly, the text of claim 5 has been added to independent claims 11, 21, and 22. Amended claims 11, 21, and 22 differ from allowable claims 5 and 17 only in that claim 11 is an apparatus that implements the method of claim 5, claim 21 implements the method of claim 5 on a plurality of policy enforcement points instead of on at least one policy enforcement point, and claim 22 is a computer readable medium carrying the method of claim 21. Consequently, claims 11, 21, and 22 include all of the subject matter of claim 5, and are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Claim 10 is amended to include the subject matter of claim 5 except in means plus function format, and is also allowable for at least the same reasons. Thus, all of the claims pending contain the subject matter of claim 5, and are allowable for at least the same reasons, or else were indicated to contain allowable subject matter in the Office Action. Therefore, this application is in condition for allowance.

III. CONCLUSION

For the reasons set forth above, all pending claims are patentable over the art of record. Accordingly, allowance of all claims is hereby respectfully solicited.

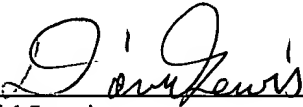
The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

No extension fee is believed to be due. However, to the extent necessary, Applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee that may be due in relation to this application to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP

Dated: September 14, 2004



David Lewis
Patent Agent, Reg. No. 33,101

1600 Willow Street
San Jose, California 95125-5106
Telephone No.: (408) 414-1080x213
Facsimile No.: (408) 414-1076

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

on Sept. 14, 2004 by 